

## EXPRESSIVE SPEECH ACT AS FOUND ON LA LA LAND MOVIE

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**Abstract:** *In analyzing utterances, the researcher used speech act that is language covers an action, it consists of 3 levels which are locutionary act, illocutionary act and perlocutionary act. This research focus on illocutionary particullary expressive act. It describes what the speaker feels about state of affair in sincerity condition and the social relationship between speaker and the listener. Research questions of this study were: (1) what are the types of expressive speech acts as found on La La Land movie, (2) What are the social functions of expressive speech acts as found on Lala Land movie. The researcher used La La Land's transcript to collect the data and was analyzed by qualitative approach based on Searle (1976) and Norrick's (1978) theories. The result of this research showed that there were 35 utterances consisting of expressive speech act. Some of the expressive types appeared except expressive act of condoling thus theirs social function.*

**Keywords:** *Expressive Speech Act, Lala Land Movie*

### INTRODUCTION

The goal of communication is to deliver a message from the speaker to the listener. When people communicate they produce an utterance in order to create an understanding between the speaker and the listener. Utterance meaning is classified into two which are literal meaning (what the speaker literally said) and speaker's meaning (what the speaker implicated), literal meaning

refers to semantic while speaker meaning refers to pragmatic.

There are so many branches in pragmatics, one of them is to figure out the speaker meaning followed by actions and it is called speech acts. Yule (1996) states that speech acts are the action performed via utterances. This means that speech act is about a relationship between what the speaker means, what the speaker intends and also what the listener understands.

Austin (1962) states that speech acts have been distinguished into three aspects: Locutionary act, Illocutionary acts, and Perlocutionary acts. A Locutionary act is an act of stating something as the way it is (*The Act of Saying Something*). An Illocutionary act is an act of stating and doing something (*The Act of Doing Something*). A perlocutionary act is an act of affecting someone, perlocutionary act is often called as *The Act of Affective Someone*. In illocutionary act, there are five basic kinds of action that one can perform in speaking, by means the following five types of utterances: representatives, comitive, directive, expressive and declaration (Searle, 1969).

As Yule (1996) said that expressive act is a kind of speech acts that states what the speaker feels. The expressive act is used in verbal utterances and written utterances. It is used to communicate, to pass the information, and need extra efforts to understand the utterance. In this case, the researcher wants to present the application of speech act in verbal communication such as a movie, in order to make a reader understand how to use and the social function of the

expressive act with the way, the movie as media to understand it. With used movie as an object.

The movie is a story or event recorded by a camera as a set of moving images and shown in a theater or on television. With actors within, they make a dialogue and use an expression to get the attention to the viewers. As good actors, they have to be an expert to use their expression which is purposed to get the actors feeling and know what the actors want to deliver to the viewer.

As we know, expressive speech act is psychology statement from the speaker to the listener. The researcher want to analyze the expressive speech act in a movie and figure out what are the types and social function of expression speech act that used in La La Land Movie. The researcher chooses La La Land movie because the genre of this movie is drama musical, as we know that drama shows emotions than horror, action or comedy. Thus, it will be many expressive act that researcher will find in this movie. This movie has a good quality which is proven that La La Land nominated the best movie in Oscar 2017.

## METHODOLOGY OF STUDY

In conducting this research, the researcher used a qualitative approach. A qualitative approach is used by the researcher to analyze the expressive acts that occurred in the La La Land Movies to get the correct utterances. Creswell (1998) state “Qualitative research is an inquiry process of understanding based on distinct methodological traditions of inquiry that explores a social and human problem. The researcher built a complex, holistic picture, analyzed words, detailed view of report the informant and conducts the study in a natural setting.”

The research use descriptive method which means the expressive acts that the researcher will find on La La Land movie by using words according to its real condition without any additional expressions or even judgments from the researcher. In this research, the researcher described the results of the study to the readers in the form of words o phrase, not in the form of a number or statistical data.

The data of this research were the utterances which contained expressive acts on La La Land Movies and the main data source was taken

from the original DVD and all of the utterances in text draft that contained in La La Land movies. The researcher used the field notes and movie’s transcript. The researcher itself as an instrument of this research, the researcher spent her time to watch the movie and field the notes of subtitles of La La Land movie (in this case, the researcher matched the field notes/subtitle with the movies and matched the hours, minute and second when the utterances were spoken), then understanding and analyzing the utterances in the movie to find out the expressive act. They were used to identify the utterances which possible to analyze, with used observation, and content analysis to conduct the research.

**Table 1. Utterances**

Utterances	Min(s)	Types of Expressive Act	Social Function
66 Oh, no, thank you. I insist.	00:06:11,650 -> 00:06:13,414	Thanking	The woman in the movie would like to thank the waitress for being willing to accept the payment money he gave after the cappuccin

			o which he ordered was given for free.
87 I'm almost done. Thank you.	00:08:16,930 -> 00:08:18,614	Thanking	The woman in the movie thanked her assistant for her help

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

There are nine types of expressive speech act based on Searle (1976) and Norrick (1978) theories. Thus, in this movie there were 1208 utterances in 2 hours eight minutes and 5 seconds duration as the source of data to identify the expressive speech act in this research. The researcher found there are eight types of expressive speech act used in this movie. There are expressive speech act of thanking, expressive act of apologizing, expressive act of welcoming, expressive act forgiving, expressive act lamenting, expressive act of deploring, expressive act of boasting and expressive act of congratulating. The researcher did not find expressive act of condoling in this movie. The researcher found there are 35 utterances consist of expressive

speech act to complete the findings are presented in the below:

Apologize is a kind of expressive speech act where the statement express sorry or regret about something. In used, apologize usually used a word “sorry” in the utterance. In La La Land movies there were 9 utterances of apologies to express the speaker regret or sorry to the listener. For the example, the researcher presented the data in the below:

1. Mia's friend 1: Did she just say “working”?
2. Mia's friend 2: What?
3. Mia's friend 1: I'm sorry it didn't go well today.
4. Sebastian : Don't fire me Bill. Don't fire me.
5. Bill: You are done. I'm sorry Seb.

In the dialog above, “sorry” is the word to express apologizing from the characters in La La Land movies. The data (a) could be identified for expressing apology. Mia's friends felt regrets to Mia because her casting didn't go well and for the data (b) also showed expressing apology. It showed when Bill said sorry to Sebastian because Sebastian breaks the rule then he got fire. 2 examples above express their regrets to the hearer. The social

function of apologizing is a value the relationship is precious more than ego. In La La Land movies the social function of apologizing is to ask a forgive when make mistake, interrupt the conversation, and to value the relations with the social function to get a forgiveness, understanding each other and make a value in relation.

## 2. Expressive act of thanking

Thanking is an act of expressive act paradigms which were considered as one of universal interpersonal communication to express the gratitude, appreciation, good faith and so on. The used of thanking usually used word of “thank” to express the gratitude. In La La Land movies there are 12 of utterances that contains of expressive act of thanking three of them showed in the below:

- a. Actress : Cappuccino, please  
Waitress : Right, of course. On us.  
Actress : Oh no, Thank you. I insist.
- b. Mia : Can you grab my key? Please  
Seb : Oh, there we go  
Mia : Thank you
- c. Mia : Capish?  
Cast. Director: Thank you  
Mia : I can do it a different way

Cast director: No, that fine. Thank you very much.  
Thank you

The social function of thinking is generally the acknowledgments of one’s having benefited from actions of another person. The social function of thanking in La La Land movies is the speaker gave an admit to the hearer for the kindness, assistance, and the understanding. For the examples the dialogue (a) when the café has come to a buyer (the buyer is an actress), she ordered a cappuccino and when the waitress gave the cappuccino she said “on us” it means free, but the buyers said thank to appreciate the kindness and said “thanks, I insist” it means she didn’t want it with free but appreciate the kindness with said thanks. The next example is (b), when the girl says thank for the assisted from the man who did get the key the car of the woman from the parker, so the girls say thanks for the assisted. Then for the data (c), this was a room of audition for the Tv shows, there was a girl and 2 casting directors .When the directors said “in your own time” so the girl showed her acting, when finished just a couple of utterance, the juries immediately stopped and said

thank you, the girls asked to gave more time but the jury said “no, that’s fine, thank you very much” so the directors said thanks and hopefully got understanding why he stopped the performance from the girl.

### 3. Expressive act of congratulating

Congratulating is an act which the speaker shows the care to the hearer for his/her achievement and success. It usually expressed by used the words congrats and well done. In La la Land movies, the researchers only found one utterance of congratulating, here the utterance:

- a. Mia : I got a callback  
 Sebastian : What? Come on, for what?  
 Mia : For a TV show. The one who I was telling you about earlier.  
 Sebastian : The “Dangerous minds meet the O.C”?  
 Mia : Yeah.  
 Sebastian : Congratulations!

The social function of congratulating (a) is showed a great pleasure because the speaker also feels the joy that happens to the listener. In La La Land movies, the social function of congratulating was showed the speaker happiness when heard the

good news from the listener, it showed a great pleasure. In this movie the conversation has a setting in a bar, during a conversation between man and woman; the woman got a phone call. When it’s done, the woman get back and said to the man” I got a call back (for the audition)” the man said “what’s (with expressed didn’t believe) come on, for what?” the woman answer “for the TV show that I mentioned before” the man asked “the Dangerous Mind and The O. C?” “Yes” the woman answered it, and then the man said congratulation to express his great pleasure and show happiness when he was hearing that news.

### 4. Expressive act of welcoming

Welcoming is an act of the politeness, this is a positive or polite manner of the speaker in greeting the hearer. To express sympathetic pleasure as (an event) to express vicarious, it pleasure to be a person on the occasion of good fortune. It usually indicates by used “welcome” “hello” and greeting word. In La La Land movies, the researchers found 5 utterances of welcoming. Two of them are showed in the below:

- a. Karen : Well. Welcome back.

Seb : There's a nice way to  
say that. Karen.

b. Seb : Bill, thank you for  
having me back

Bill : You're welcome.

The data above show that Karen (a) and Bill (b) used expressive act welcoming. They used politeness expression to the hearer. The data (a) tells about when the pianist is coming back to the restaurant to fill the music with piano as the pianist, back before the pianist get fired because he breaks the rules, so the waitress from that restaurant said welcome back. Also for the data (b), Bill shows his friendly to the Seb for his back. The Social function of welcoming is the friendly response of approving the other attendance to a place or event with passion joy. In La La Land movies, the social function of welcoming are restricted as its range of occurrence. By expressing pleasure at someone's arrival we intend to make him/her comfortable or perhaps to indicate that his/her visit is considered an honor.

##### 5. Expressive act of deploring

The term of deploring is due to Searle (1976), the cases of deploring in which the speaker feels himself personally affected. Deploring is an

expression cause by other's unfortunate, chide, disapprove of, condemn, in order of increasing outrage. In this movie the researcher found 2 utterances that consist of expressive act deploring. The utterances presented below:

a. Seb : This is a dream

Mia : This is not your dream!

Seb : Guys like me, work their whole lives to be in something. That's successful, that people like. I mean, I'm finally in something that people enjoy.

Mia : Since when do you care about being liked, why do you care so much being liked?

Seb : You're an actress! What are you talking about?

b. Laura: Get serious!

Seb : 'Get serious' Laura? I had a very serious plan for my future. It's not my fault I got shanghaied.

Laura: You didn't get shanghaied. You got ripped off!

The data (a) and (b) express deploring, when Seb got chide from

Mia and Laura. that dialogue The social function of deploring is the act may be directed at causing the addressee to recognize his mistake in the hope that he/she will alter his/her behavior in the future. But acts of deploring can also take the form of a mere self-righteous show or a matter of venting one's own moral outrage. Mia and Seb has a seriously conversation. Seb feels deploring because of Mia state, in this case Seb got chide and disapprove what the Mia said about him since he is on process to get his dream but Mia hesitate him. Chide and Disapprove are deploring act.

#### 6. Expressive act of lamenting

The act of lamenting is express sorrow at one's misfortune. Lamenting becomes an act of condoling directed at oneself. The researcher found 2 utterances that express sorrow at one's misfortune. The examples of lamenting are:

a. Mia : It's over

Seb : What?

Mia : All of this. I'm done embarrassing myself. I'm done. I'm done No body showed up. I can't pay back theater. This is so...

b. Seb : Tell me why you're not going?

Mia : Because I've been a million auditions and the same thing happens every time where I get interrupted because someone want to get a sandwich! Or I'm crying, and they are start laughing or there's people sitting in the waiting room, and they're like me but prettier and better at that because maybe I'm not good enough

Seb : Yes, you are.

The dialogue above tells about lamenting. The data (a) Mia express her misfortune because she realizes that she is a bad actress. She was embarrassing hers self, she played a one-woman show but nobody show up even she can't pay back the theater. For the data (b) Mia also showed her sorrow that she was being a joke when she was acting. The sorrow that Mia's express was lamenting. But, there is no social function of lamenting because acts of lamenting in the absence of any listener at all. When others are present the social function



of lamenting is usually to excite the pity.

#### 7. Expressive act of forgiving

Forgiving is a respond to apologize. In this movie the researcher found only two respond to apologize most of them didn't give respond when the speaker express their regret or express sorry to the hearer.

a. Seb : I'm sorry I've been such a prick.

Mia : You're sorry, you're sorry.

Seb : I'm gonna make it up to you.

Let me make it up to you.

Okay?

Mia : It's over.

b. Mia : George Michael!

Seb : Hello

Mia : Sorry, I know this guy.

Carlo: Yeah, Yeah.

The general social function of acts forgiving is to show that apology has been accepted or is not accepted and end the matter. It is natural and useful to have well established conventions for apologizing and forgiving in a society. The social function of forgiving also relieving the hearer/addressee of guilt feelings. In this movie shows that two dialogues above used forgiving expressive act. Forgiving showed apologize has been

accepted. For the data (a) expressive act of apologize is accepted but it used indirect speech act. Mia was very angry when Sebastian didn't come in her show. Even though she is angry but she forgives Seb. For the data (b) Mia said sorry to Carlo because she calls Seb when they are talking but then Carlo responds her apologize with said yeah. In this case Carlo accepted Mia's apologize to relieving Mia's guilt feelings and to make a good relationship between him and Mia.

#### 8. Expressive act of boasting

Boasting often consists in claims about future. Boasting impress other with one's past accomplishments, impressing others to inspire their confidence or admiration. The researcher found two dialogues that used boasting in the conversation.

a. Mia's Friend : Carlo is a writer

Carlo : They say I have a knack for world building. I got a lot of heat right now. There's been a lot of buzz, people talking about me which is exciting.

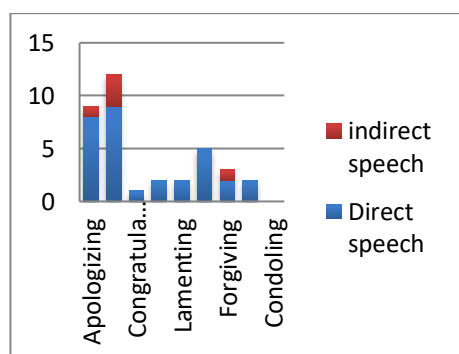
b. Seb : Requesting "I Ran" from a serious musician. It's just too far.

Mia : My Lord! Did you just say “a serious musician”? Can I borrow what you wearing?

Seb : Why?

Mia : Cause I have an audition next week. I’m playing “a serious firefighter”

The social function of boasting is sometimes simply to impress others with one’s past accomplishments, but it may go beyond this. The speaker may intend by impressing others to inspire their confidence or admiration. Also boasting often has the social function of discouraging competition or resistance. In La La Land movie the researcher found two utterances that used boasting to impressing the hearer admiration. In the (a) dialogue show that Carlo told about his self has a writer to impress Mia in their first meeting. Then the (b) dialogue “a serious musician and a serious actress” it showed that they want to showed their accomplishments.



**Figure 1. Research Finding**

## CONCLUSION

The researcher found there are 35 utterances that consist of expressive speech act. They are 10 utterances of apologies, 10 utterances of thanking, 5 utterances of welcoming, 2 utterances of lamenting, 2 utterances of deploring then 2 utterances of boasting, 1 utterance of congratulating and 3 utterances of forgiving in the dialog La La Land movie and classified their social function.

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